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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

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Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[6] the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its

[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/239, annex.

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Impact on Development[7] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[8]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 53/200 of 15 December 1998 entitled "Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism",

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing its economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Stressing also that ecotourism can, in the framework of sustainable tourism, contribute to the fight against poverty, to environment protection and to promoting sustainable development,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Convention on Biological Diversity in promoting ecotourism and sustainable tourism worldwide,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production, and in particular its task force on the sustainable development of tourism, as a cross-sectorial example of more sustainable consumption and production practices,

Noting the initiatives launched and events organized at the subregional, regional and international levels in the field of ecotourism and sustainable development,

1. *Recognizes* that the development of ecotourism, in the framework of sustainable tourism, can have positive impacts on income generation, job creation, education and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits stemming from ecotourism activities in all countries, particularly in developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States;

3. *Also emphasizes* that ecotourism can contribute to sustainable development, in particular environmental protection, and improve the well-being of local and indigenous communities;

4. *Recognizes* that ecotourism creates significant opportunities for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of natural areas by encouraging local and indigenous communities in host countries and tourists alike to preserve and respect natural and cultural heritage;

5. *Also recognizes* the potential of ecotourism to reduce poverty through improving individual livelihoods in local communities and to generate resources for community development projects;

[7] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[8] Resolution 65/1.

6. *Underlines* in this regard, the importance of establishing, at the national level and in accordance with national priorities, appropriate guidelines and regulations for promoting and supporting ecotourism and minimizing its potential negative impact, and encourages Member States to promote investment in ecotourism, in accordance with their national legislation, which may include the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises and facilitating access to finance, including through microcredit initiatives for the poor, local and indigenous communities in areas with high ecotourism potential, including rural areas;

7. *Underlines also* the importance of conducting environmental impact assessments, according to national legislation, for the development of ecotourism opportunities;

8. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge in all aspects are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in ecotourism policy development, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of local and indigenous communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous and local knowledge, heritage and values in ecotourism initiatives, as appropriate;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for effective measures in the context of ecotourism initiatives to ensure the full empowerment of women, including equal participation of women and men at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system in the context of the global campaign for the Millennium Development Goals to promote ecotourism as an instrument that can contribute to achieving the Goals, in particular the Goals to eradicate extreme poverty, and ensure environmental sustainability, and to support the efforts and policies of developing countries in this field;

11. *Encourages* the regional and international financial institutions to provide adequate support to programmes and projects related to ecotourism, taking into account the economic and environmental benefits of such activities;

12. *Recognizes* the role of North-South cooperation in promoting ecotourism as a means to achieve economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve living standards in developing countries;

13. *Also recognizes* that South-South and triangular cooperation, as complements to North-South cooperation, have potential in promoting ecotourism;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, at its sixty-seventh session, in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote ecotourism as a tool to fight poverty and promote sustainable development.